

ANTISERA, TOXOIDS, VACCINES AND TUBERCULINS IN PROPHYLAXIS AND TREATMENT. By H. J. Parish and D. A. Cannon. Sixth Edition. (Pp. viii + 315; figs. 45. 40s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1962.

THE importance and general appreciation of this book may be gauged by the fact that this is the sixth edition in the space of fourteen years and the fifth edition appeared only a year ago.

The text has been thoroughly revised and new material has been added, increasing the number of pages by twenty-seven and the price by 2s. 6d. The object of the book is "to present in convenient form the essential principles of immunology and their practical application in human medicine." This objective has been fully attained.

The text is divided into five sections dealing with basic principles and procedures, the preparation and use of antisera, active immunization against (a) bacterial diseases and (b) viral and rickettsial diseases, and a general section which includes immunization schedules in childhood and immunization for international travel. The chapters on Smallpox Vaccine, Poliomyelitis Vaccine, Immunization Schedules and Personal Medical Records have been largely rewritten and brought up to date.

This book has a special appeal to all doctors concerned with immunization, especially general physicians and doctors in public health departments. V. D. A.

BIGGER'S HANDBOOK OF BACTERIOLOGY. Edited by F. S. Stewart, M.D. (Dublin), F.R.C.P.I. Eighth Edition. (Pp. viii + 640; figs. 75. 45s.) London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox, 1962.

THE new edition of this popular student textbook has again been extensively revised, especially in the chapters on disinfection and sterilization, immunity and the eleven chapters on viruses.

The omission of a chapter on the pathogenic fungi has now been rectified. There is, however, no mention of pathogenic protozoa, which is a pity, especially in view of the increasing importance of *Trichomonas vaginalis* as a cause of vaginitis, and the lack of any other convenient and concise source of information about a not unimportant group of pathogens. From this point of view it would appear that the book is not intended for use in teaching centres in tropical or sub-tropical regions. Despite this the book is essentially a practical one and fulfils the requirements of the medical student and practising doctor. It is to be hoped that further editions will not continue to increase in size, rather the reverse, if this book is to retain its place as a popular textbook for medical students. Does any doctor now use the Behring venule? Does the medical student need to know the generic names (not yet accepted) *Miyagawanella* or *Chlamydia*, or about fimbrial antigens or Hershey's method of demonstrating symbiotic phages? These are a few of the details, which are purely of academic interest to the medical student.

The typescript is excellent, the text is lucid and easy to read, and the illustrations are good, with the exception of fig. 52. This new edition should continue to rank high as a suitable textbook to be recommended to medical students. V. D. A.

BEDSIDE DIAGNOSIS. By Charles Seward, M.D., F.R.C.P.(Ed.). Sixth Edition. (Pp. xix + 499. 30s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1962.

THIS now well known book has been expanded by 20 pages since the last edition and in this process has undergone a complete revision of text with the re-writing of some three chapters. A useful short chapter has been added on the application of radioactive isotopes in diagnosis and the chapter on "Drugs Considered as Causes of Symptoms" stresses the risks and complexities of present-day therapeutics. The chapter on "Normal Values" is very supportive of the rest of the book, but one finds it strange that no reference is made to ketogenic steroids.

As the previous reviewer remarks, "This book must now be on the way to becoming a medical best seller," and its essentially practical approach to diagnosis is the key to this claim. W.B.